

Hello,

My name is Damilola Oluwemimo. I am a Masters of Public health Candidate at the western Illinois University Macomb Illinois and I am also a Next-Gen Climate and Health Fellow at Physicians for Social Responsibility, a nationwide nonprofit dedicated to protecting humanity from the greatest threats to health and survival: climate change and nuclear weapons.

Few months ago was the very first time I learned about particulate matter and how it severely affects respiratory health. Along with other public health professionals, I agree that EPA's proposal to set the primary annual standard for PM<sub>2.5</sub> at 9 to 10 micrograms per cubic meter is too high to sufficiently protect human health.

I am saying this as someone that grew up in a rural part of Nigeria. My country is part of the economies that contribute least to climate change but has been directly affected by increased air pollution as some of the effects of climate change. I grew up noticing my dad and my sister had allergies. However, their allergies worsened during the warmest months of the year and during the dry season. During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, my sister didn't experience any of these allergies, and we thought she had been miraculously healed. Recently I took a lecture about climate change and air quality and I realized she was greatly affected because of prolonged inhaling of particulate matter and her symptoms were reduced during the pandemic due to the rigorous use of masks. Additionally, my family was part of the millions that used unclean energy to run their homes in Nigeria. Ours mostly used wood from cut trees for cooking and kerosene for local open-flame lanterns to light up our rooms, which contributed to the toxic indoor air quality.

I presently live in Macomb, Illinois and even though I don't use firewood and open flame lanterns anymore, I have discovered that I am still not living in good PM level standards according to the State of the Air Data of the American lung Association. I urge you to take the recommendation of PSR to set the standard at 5 micrograms or less per cubic meter in order to ensure good air quality for me, my children and the generations to come.

Thank you.